MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY — JOPLIN

THE CHART

CUBA SEMESTER

IT'S A WRAP

Themed semester draws to a close.

Page 9A

EXPLORATION

Southern student shares the wonders of Costa Rica in a McCaleb Peace Initiative supplement. Section B

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2003 | WWW.THECHARTONLINE.COM | VOLUME 64, ISSUE NO. 11

Bill Shepherd/The Chart

Reserve Deputy Sheriff Zach Riner, freshman criminal justice major, gives finger prints to Kaitlyn Lawton, Carthage resident, Nov. 15 in the Anderson Justice Center as part of the Missouri Southern Coalition Against Child Abuse.

Coalition prints children for safety

BY JONATHAN BEVILLE
City Editor

It's a simple question of safety.

For the third year in a row, the Missouri Southern Coalition Against Child Abuse held a free fingerprinting session for area children Nov. 15.

"If they have their fingerprints on file, then it's sad, but it helps to identify bodies or identify children if it's suspected they may have been kidnapped," said Heather Fletcher, junior criminal justice major and president of the coalition.

The program fingerprinted 50 children last year and had a goal of 100 this year.

While this year's goal was not met, 51 children were fingerprinted and photographed.

Members of the coalition, all students at the University, took pictures of the children from front and side views.

Cadets at the police academy volunteered to fingerprint the children with a detective from the Jasper County police department.

The cadets took prints from each of the child's fingers and handprints as well.

At 11 a.m. when the program began, there were already parents and children waiting to begin.

The day's events, however, were not limited to fingerprinting efforts alone.

Sue Keough, sophomore accounting and CIS major, said children also took part in a coloring contest.

"We had 13 prizes and three winners in each age group," Keough said.

Some of the prizes included gift certificates to Best Buy, Wal-Mart and Toys 'R' Us.

Emerson Elementary School in Joplin donated the crayons for the contest. Children who participated were allowed to keep the crayons.

Jennifer Nord, sophomore elementary education major, brought her 23-month-old son to be photographed and fingerprinted.

"It's kind of a safety thing so if anything actually did happen I will have something to show [the police]," Nord said.

She said her son seemed to be enjoying himself at the event, dancing in her arms as she held him.

J.J. Spurlin, assistant professor of criminal justice and the coalition's faculty adviser said fingerprints and photographs are important materials in locating a missing child.

"Aside from the Elizabeth Smart case, the first 24 hours are the only 24 hours," Spurlin said.

Spurlin spent eight years as a child abuse investigator with Jasper and Sullivan counties.

He said all of the members of the coalition plan to go on to work in child services.

"I think I am giving them a good start here," Spurlin said.

Spurlin's goals for the coalition and the University go beyond a simple fingerprinting operation.

He said the fingerprints made at the event are

TURN TO **SAFETY,** PAGE 11A

Foundation prepares for Phonathon

BY MICHELLE CONTY
Coordinating Editor

Curt Betebenner
Director of Southern Foundation

Changes and improvements are coming to the annual Missouri Southern Foundation Phonathon.

Curt Betebenner, foundation director, said he is taking a new approach this year to aid with the capital campaign.

Dr. Beverly Block is the faculty co-chair for the fund-raising efforts.

"She is going to head up that effort to identify chairs in different schools to maximize faculty involvement," Betebenner said.

Of the $108,000 raised in last year's Phonathon, approximately 11 percent came from faculty donations.

"We are hoping the faculty appeal will work

TURN TO **PHONE,** PAGE 11A

Bookstore welcomes gift cards

BY T.J. GERLACH
Public Forum Editor

In the past few months, the bookstore at Missouri Southern has started selling gift cards.

The cards replace the gift certificates the bookstore formerly used.

"Gift certificates are fine," said Greg Needham, bookstore manager. "But, retailers today are using gift cards."

He said there are many reasons gift cards

TURN TO **CARDS,** PAGE 10A

Living Young

44-year-old student makes Southern residence halls home

Bill Shepherd/The Chart

Mike Pittman, sophomore psychology major, feeds fish in his Blaine Hall room. Pittman is 44 years old and plans to attend graduate school.

BY JERRY MANTER
Editor-in-Chief

Students living in Blaine Hall weren't sure what to think about Mike Pittman during the first few weeks of class.

Was he a faculty member wandering the halls — a student's father?

He was neither.

But he is, however, 44 years old and a resident of Blaine Hall.

"It was a hassle to get an apartment, and so I thought about living in the dorms," Pittman said.

On the first move-in day of the fall semester, Pittman moved into a private room along with a hamster, gerbil and 14 fish. It took a few days of adjustment for Pittman to adjust to cramped quarters and an adolescent vibe. Odd looks were consistent, too.

"If I were a 20-year-old kid, I think it would be kind of strange, too," Pittman said.

Pittman dropped out of high school when he was a sophomore and joined the Navy. After six years of service, he spent the next 15 years cutting and shaping stone in the family monument business. Divorced, and never having had children, Pittman knew it was time to hit the books once again. He wanted to attend college, but he wanted to experience it as well.

"I thought I'd give the dorms a shot," he said.

The scenery isn't attractive for Pittman. The housing units are a little smaller than he would have liked. The no-animal

TURN TO **YOUNG,** PAGE 10A

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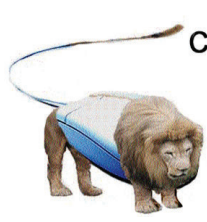
WEEKEND OUTLOOK

SATURDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 61
Low: 58

SUNDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 63
Low: 25

ONLINE



Click on the online edition of *The Chart* at
www.thechartonline.com

This week's online poll:
How do you feel about cell phones ringing at inappropriate times (i.e. restaurants, theaters, etc.)?

León vetoes days-off idea

BY NATE BILLINGS
International Editor

Although shorter than previous years, the Student Senate's annual meeting with University President Julio León lasted one hour Nov. 19.

Along with León, Dr. Betsy Griffin, vice president of academic affairs, and Dr. Jack Spurlin, director of lifelong learning, came to the meeting to discuss senators' questions.

Among the 11 questions León and his colleagues were given were the topics of enrollment, tuition, retention and new majors.

Enrollment was the first issue discussed during the meeting.

"People tend to think things are going pretty bad for Missouri Southern," León said. "It just depends on how you look at it."

Dr. Julio León
University President

He compared the current enrollment to enrollment in previous years. León said enrollment has risen and declined many times before. He said the new university status will add emphasis to the recruitment of students.

"We're going through a difficult period, but I think it's temporary," he said.

Griffin announced several new majors including computer forensics and new degrees in chemical and physical science education majors. León said the new major in computer forensics shows that the University is constantly paying attention to the world around it.

Spurlin then added that the distance learning and lifelong learning programs offer students a chance to gain a more convenient education, especially with the ability to take courses online during the summer months.

"All the students went home, but they took a class with them," he said.

Senators also asked about tuition and the possibility that it may be raised again.

León responded by noting the state cutbacks have affected how much the students have had to pay in recent years. He said the students are currently paying approximately half of the costs it takes to maintain the University. The state is paying the other half. He said he has heard that the state will be $9 million under budget next year, which may mean more cutbacks in state funding.

"At this point I really don't know how to answer your question because I really don't know," León said.

He said however, that he does not like placing large increases in tuition on students and the University will strive to keep tuition as low as possible.

Also brought up during the meeting, was the possible electronic sign.

"I share the desire to have this electronic sign," León said.

Senators also asked about the possibility of taking more days off for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Thanksgiving.

León adamantly said, "no," to each suggestion.

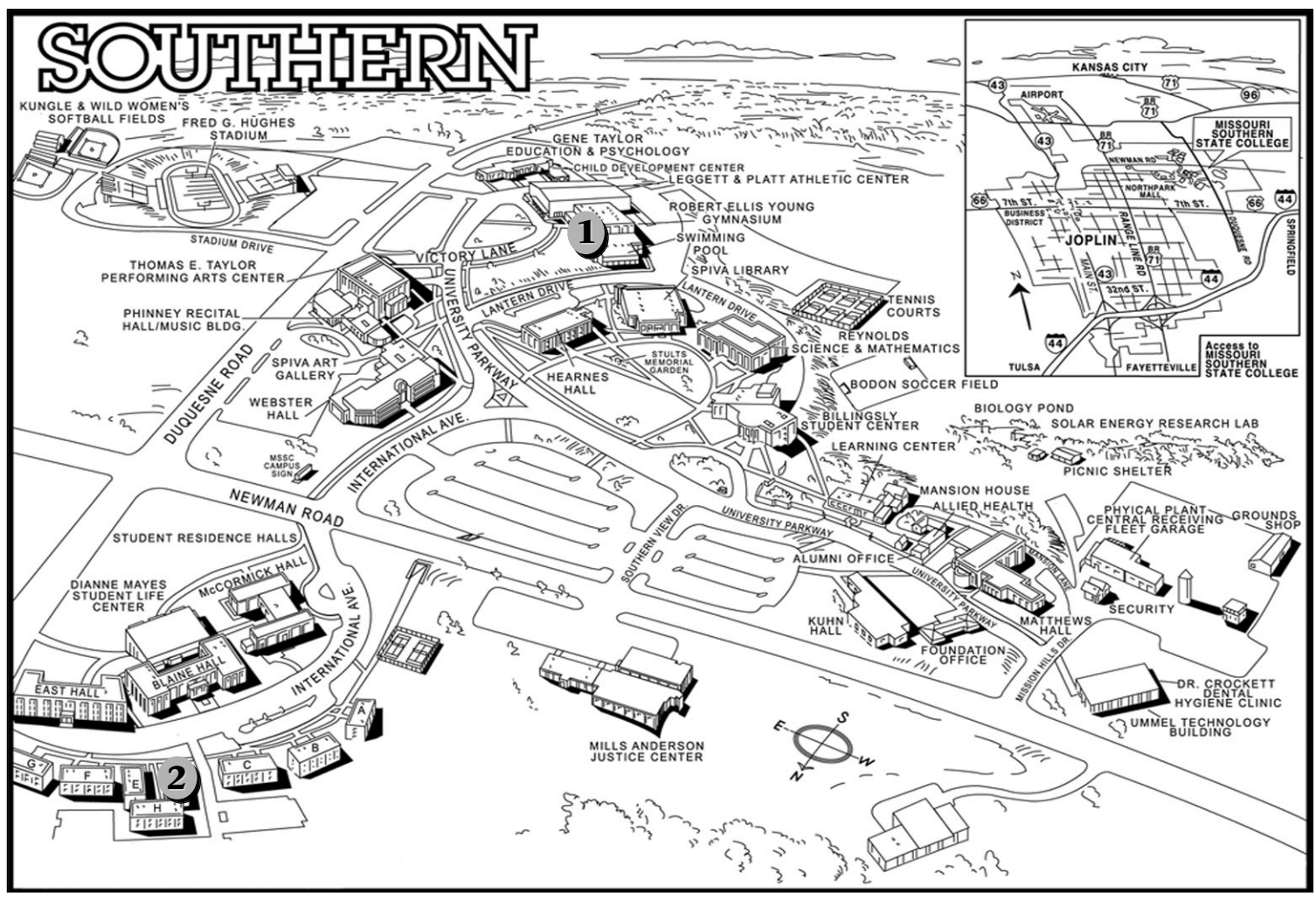
"I don't believe the way to recognize something is to simply not do anything," he said.

León said he would like to see students get more out of MLK day by taking part in an event honoring his life. He also said if students were to take days off at Thanksgiving, then instructors would be more rushed to get class items done.

After all questions were asked, Zack Odem, Senate president, thanked the administrators for coming to the meeting and taking part in answering questions.

He said the session is important and the senators did not ask questions that were not considered important.

Odem said the meeting between the administration and the Senate is one item that sets Southern apart from other schools.



Child fails in flip attempt, injures neck

1 **Injured Person**

11/11/03

8:43 p.m.

Security responded to a "small" child that had been injured at the south end of the gymnasium.

The child was attempting to do a forward flip and landed on its neck.

The child's parent was present when the officer arrived on the scene. The parent declined medical service because the child was not complaining of any pain.

2 **Injured Person**

11/11/03

10:35 p.m.

Security was contacted by the Joplin Police Department dispatch in reference to a medical emergency across from East Hall. The officer escorted Joplin Fire to the residence halls where a student was found, stating he had hit his head on a stair support. A small forehead laceration was observed.

The cut was fixed with a Band-Aid. No further medical help was given.

Campus Calendar

Senior exit counseling deadline draws for students with loans

The time for graduating seniors to fulfill their commitments is drawing closer.

December graduates who accepted student loans from Missouri Southern need to schedule financial aid exit counseling. The exit interview needs to be done by Dec. 19.

The graduates who do not fulfill this requirement will have holds placed on their transcripts and diplomas until they meet the requirement.

The financial aid office offers graduates the opportunity to meet one-on-one with an exit counselor to review student loan totals, repayment options, loan forgiveness and consolidation information.

May 2004 graduates may begin scheduling financial aid exit counseling in March 2004.

Appointments must be scheduled in advance.

Students may call 625-9325 for information or to schedule an appointment.

Suzuki Academy students host violin recitals in auditorium

The Missouri Southern Suzuki Violin Academy students will be hosting a concert Saturday.

The Suzuki students, pupils of Jon Gayman, Dr. Kexi Liu and Elizabeth Messinger, will perform recitals at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday.

The concert will be held in Webster Auditorium. The students will be accompanied by Tascille King and Alison Hasselquist.

For information, persons may call Dr. Kexi Liu, director of Suzuki Violin Academy, at 625-9681.

University television debuts fall Choral Concert for all to view

The Fall 2003 Choral Concert will make its television debut Nov. 30.

KGCS-TV will be airing the concert, which features the Concert Chorale, Chamber Choir and Southern Exposure.

"A Field of Gold" is the name of the concert. KGCS programming can be found on UHF 57 and cable channel 7 in Joplin and Webb City.

The concert will air at 7 p.m.

Spanish Club offers Latin music, free admission for dance tutors

It's time for some Latin music and dancing.

The Missouri Southern Spanish Club is hosting a dance at 8 p.m. Friday in the Connor Ballroom of Billingsly Student Center.

The dance is open to anyone who wants to attend.

The event will consist of Latin music, snacks and dancing.

Admission is $2, but anyone who can dance the various dances (salsa, merengue, etc.) is welcome for free if they are willing to teach others.

Sign up for Mr. & Mrs. Pageant begins with few requirements

Students can start signing up for the Mr. & Mrs. Missouri Southern Pageant.

The actual event will be held in March 2004. The pageant will feature competition in the interview, sports wear, talent, evening wear (for women), dress wear (men), on-stage interview and audience voting.

Persons signing up must either be a Missouri resident or carry nine or more hours as a non-resident.

The winners of the competition will receive scholarship prizes. For information, persons may call the student activities office.

The final day to sign up is Jan. 13.

Legislative service airs program featuring state representative

KGCS-TV will be airing the Missouri Legislative Update.

The broadcast can be seen at 9 p.m. Monday. The program is produced by the legislative information service in Jefferson City.

One of the speakers on the show will be Missouri State Rep. Ron Richard (R-129th District). Richard will be discussing efforts among lawmakers to maintain and attract jobs to the state.

Also in the program will be a look back at the veto session held in the legislature this fall, concealed weapons and issues regarding education funding.

Prima Quartet plans December concert with only two pianos

The Prima Quartet will be presenting a "unique" concert 4 p.m., Dec. 7.

The concert will be held in Billingsly Student Center. The two pianos will be played by Linda Berney, Dr. Cynthia Hukill, Gloria Jardon and Vivian León. Tickets are $15 per person.

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www.chick-fil-a.com

Correction: The photo cutline for the security story photo on Page 1 of the Nov. 14 issue should have read: "Paige Christiansen, senior criminal justice major, asks Craig Richardson about the security office's appeal process due to a ticket she received after being given permission by Richardson to park in a particular spot on campus."

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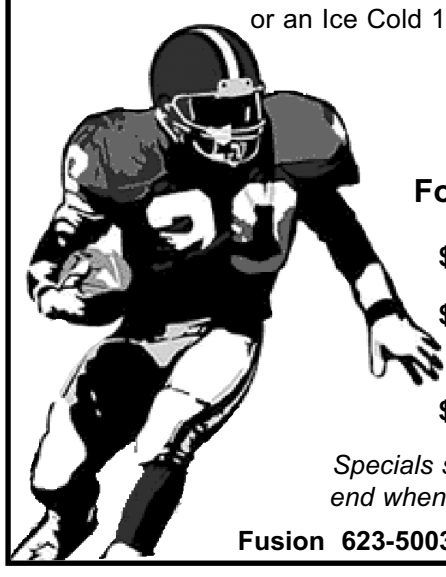
What's the better "Drink Special?"

The Monday Night 10 oz. mug at that other place,
or an Ice Cold 12 oz. bottle at **Fusion?**



Monday Night Specials = Food, Drink & Fun

$.15 Chicken Wings
(some restrictions apply)
$.50 Chicken Wings
$.50 Hot Dogs
$3 Mozzarella Sticks
$3 Jalapeno Poppers

Specials start at Kickoff; end when Game is over!

Fusion 623-5003 214 E. Fourth St.

The Chart will return Dec. 12 ... So look for us then!

Distracting Devices?

Illustration by Brian Huntley

Cell phones ring their way into classrooms

BY MANDI STEELE
Managing Editor

They can be seen in restaurants, in the car, on the street, in the store and even in the classroom — people talking on their cell phones.

With college students constantly on the go, it's only natural to many of them to have their cell phones with them when they come to class.

Ashley Eckhart, sophomore elementary education major, said she hears a cell phone ring in class at least twice a week. She's the owner of a cell phone, but said she's been fortunate enough not to have hers ring during class. She said she always "feels bad" for the person who's scrambling to quiet his or her ringing phone during class. When she hears one go off in class, she said she always checks to make sure hers is turned off.

Eckhart said she has one instructor that has answered a cell phone in class.

"It didn't really bother us," Eckhart said. "I don't think it's that disrespectful."

Dr. Vickie Roettger, associate professor of biology, looks at cell phones differently.

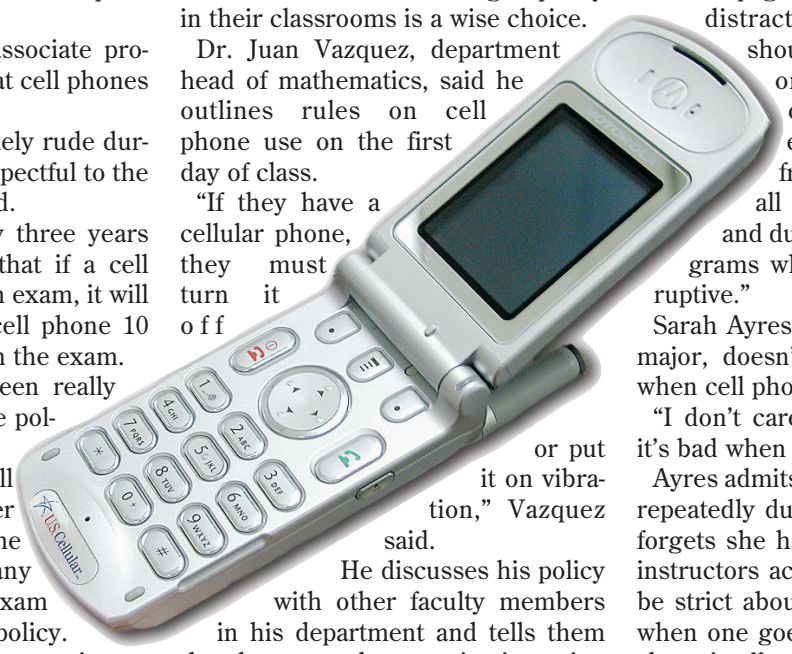
"I think they're extremely rude during class and very disrespectful to the instructor," Roettger said.

She instituted a policy three years ago in all her classes that if a cell phone goes off during an exam, it will cost the owner of the cell phone 10 percent of their grade on the exam.

"The students have been really good about following the policy," Roettger said.

She still has some cell phones ring during her lectures, but she said she doesn't remember any going off during an exam since she instituted the policy.

With so many students carrying cell phones (the Federal Communications Commission estimates that nationwide 61 percent of 18-24-year-olds have one) some instructors think instituting a policy in their classrooms is a wise choice.



Dr. Juan Vazquez, department head of mathematics, said he outlines rules on cell phone use on the first day of class.

"If they have a cellular phone, they must turn it off or put it on vibration," Vazquez said.

He discusses his policy with other faculty members in his department and tells them that they are welcome to institute similar policies if they think it is necessary.

The *Missouri Southern Student Handbook* says, "Cell phones, beepers and pagers, etc. can be obvious distractions and generally should be turned off or set on silent or vibrating options. These items are expressly prohibited from being turned on in all classrooms, the library and during any University programs where they could be disruptive."

Sarah Ayres, sophomore undecided major, doesn't think it's a big deal when cell phones ring during class.

"I don't care," Ayres said. "I think it's bad when they answer it though."

Ayres admits her phone has gone off repeatedly during class, because she forgets she has it with her. She said instructors act like they are going to be strict about cell phones, but then when one goes off in class, they just shrug it off.

"There's not a lot they can do about it," Ayres said.

Andrea Smith, freshman undecided major, said she's heard many cell phones go off during class.

"I think it's funny," Smith said. "I'm just glad it's not me."

Ayres said she's only had one instructor who seemed to be strict about cell phones. She said the instructor told the class if someone had a cell phone go off, he would make them stand up and do a dance to whatever strange ring they had on the phone.

Dr. Tom Simpson, associate professor of political science, said a student might as well be wearing a fire alarm if he or she is going to let their phone ring during a lecture. But, he said he doesn't have any sort of rule against cell phones in class, because "it's the rarity not the common thing" for them to ring in class.

"These are adults and you have to treat them as adults," Simpson said.

He doesn't think he has to compete with the phone for students' attention.

"My subject's more important than a cell phone," he said.

Respiratory club walks for charity

Club members raise $472 for patients in Hospice Walk

BY JOSH RAY
Executive Editor

They came, they walked and they won.

On Sept. 27, the Respiratory Therapy Club participated in the Hospice Walk to help raise money for the St. John's Hospice. Ten people, made up of Missouri Southern students and faculty, or friends and family, walked five miles, along with all the other schools who participated.

A trophy was given to the school that raised the most money. For the past three years, Jasper High School was the recipient of the award.

With $472 raised in its first year of participating, the club brought the award home to Southern.

Glenda Pippin, respiratory therapy program coordinator, said the walk was done to fulfill a requirement for the club members.

"That was one of the community service projects they decided on this year," Pippin said.

The club tries to do three projects per year. Other projects have included health fairs and a respiratory week.

Kristal LaPlant, senior respiratory therapy major, participated in the walk. She said it was easy to raise money for the organization. People were very willing to help her.

"I felt like I had support for raising money," LaPlant said. "For our first year, I think it was a success."

LaPlant thought people were willing to give money because they could relate to the hospice's function. The hospice takes care of patients who have six months or less to live.

They do so in the comfort of the patient's own home. This requires a lot of money.

The group did not go into the event with a goal, but Pippin said they have set one for next year. She said they just want to raise more money than this year. They also want to pull in more walkers.

"That'll be our goal for next year," she said. "My goal was just to participate."

Pippin said she hopes to make this an annual event for the club.

At the event, walkers were also given "memory balloons" of loved ones that had passed away. After the event, a barbecue was held with door prizes.

Russ Hagerman/The Chart

Toni Ortiz, sophomore respiratory therapy major, and Paula Sprenge, sophomore respiratory therapy major, practice oxygen analysis on a CPR doll, "Paul."

Russ Hagerman/The Chart

At the Hospice Walk, Sherry Ford, sophomore; Summer Bright, sophomore; Glenda Pippin, program director; Kristal LaPlant, senior; and Phyllis Caudill, junior, won first.

CIS Club offers food, speakers every meeting

BY ARON CROUSE
Staff Writer

After several failed attempts, the Computer Information Science Club is here to stay.

"Anyone can join our ranks," said Courtney Goff, publicity coordinator for the club.

The club offers one meeting at 12:15 p.m. in Matthews Hall at the end of each month. Each meeting will have pizza and soda for any current members, new members or any visitors.

With this being the club's first semester, it has only held two meetings. Club dues are $10, which helps pay for the pizzas and sodas for each meeting. The club currently has 63 registered members with an average of 50 members at each meeting.

"We have actually had an amazing turnout," said Michelle Goff, treasurer.

"The CIS Club offers a glimpse of what real world professionals in computer science do," Michelle said.

"I think we have done excellent, and we have exceeded our expectations," said Julie Wilson, president.

Wilson said she took the successes of both the accounting club and of past CIS clubs to gain the success of the present CIS. CIS schedules one speaker a month. Speakers are already scheduled for next spring and include a person from the FBI. The speaker will discuss computer forensics, which is also in the works as a degree possibly available next fall.

"Members get a real golden opportunity to meet and hear from employers and ask them questions," Courtney said.

All speakers are voluntary but certificates to restaurants are donated as a thank you.

Bob Tikkanen from Freeman Health Systems was the guest speaker Thurs., Nov. 12. Tikkanen is a network specialist and discussed active directory with regards to Netware and Windows.

For the first meeting of the new semester, there will be no speaker from outside of the campus. Faculty members will speak and use the meeting time as an ice-breaker and to introduce new members. Wilson said instructor support is important for the club and a big part of it is advertising. For more information on activities, dues, club officers, meeting schedules and future speakers, students may visit the CIS Web site at www.cisclub.org.

Editor's Column

Strike emphasizes dislike for Wal-Mart

I admit it. I buy groceries at Wal-Mart.

Every time I run my debit card through the machine, there is one second of hesitation, in which I remind myself, this is Wal-Mart.

Jonathan BeVille
City Editor

Out of collegiate-induced poverty, however, I always find myself swiping that card, at the same time as 50 other people in the long line of parallel checkout lanes.

These guys are beyond rich.

The woman checking my groceries and putting them into plastic bags is not getting rich, and neither is the middle aged man who led me to the Ramen Noodles that I can never remember where to find.

Certainly the grocery store employees, who worked in Joplin before the advent of the Supercenter, are no better off.

What are we to do? Then, there are the 70,000 grocery store employees in Southern California on strike, fighting for their livelihood, in fear of the blue and red juggernaut steadily moving west.

The United Food and Commercial Workers Union strike against Vons and Pavilions stores began Oct. 11. Competitor chains Albertson's and Ralph's responded by locking out unionized workers the next day.

The strike began after workers rejected a contract offered by management that made cuts to wages, pensions and health benefits.

Grocers in California, and across the country alike, are being forced to take drastic measures to cut costs in order to compete with warehouse stores such as Wal-Mart.

The Bentonville-based megachain has announced plans to open more than 40 Supercenters in Southern California in the next four to six years.

Roy Deam, owner of Deam's Family Center, a supermarket in Carl Junction, has been in the grocery business off and on since 1970.

"Most of the independents are gone," he said. "The only thing we can do to compete with them is from the service angle."

Deam said he hopes there are people left who notice that.

The tenacity of the California grocery workers is admirable, continuing their strike, which affects more than 800 grocery stores, since the middle of October.

So many of us here voice a negative opinion about Wal-Mart, but, like me, out of necessity, end up taking thirty items through the twenty or less checkout lane.

It is nice to see that somewhere in this country the common but all too silent animosity harbored by communities toward this company is actually being acted on.

Jonathan BeVille is the City Editor for The Chart. *His opinions are his own and don't necessarily reflect those of* The Chart *staff.*

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY — JOPLIN

THE CHART

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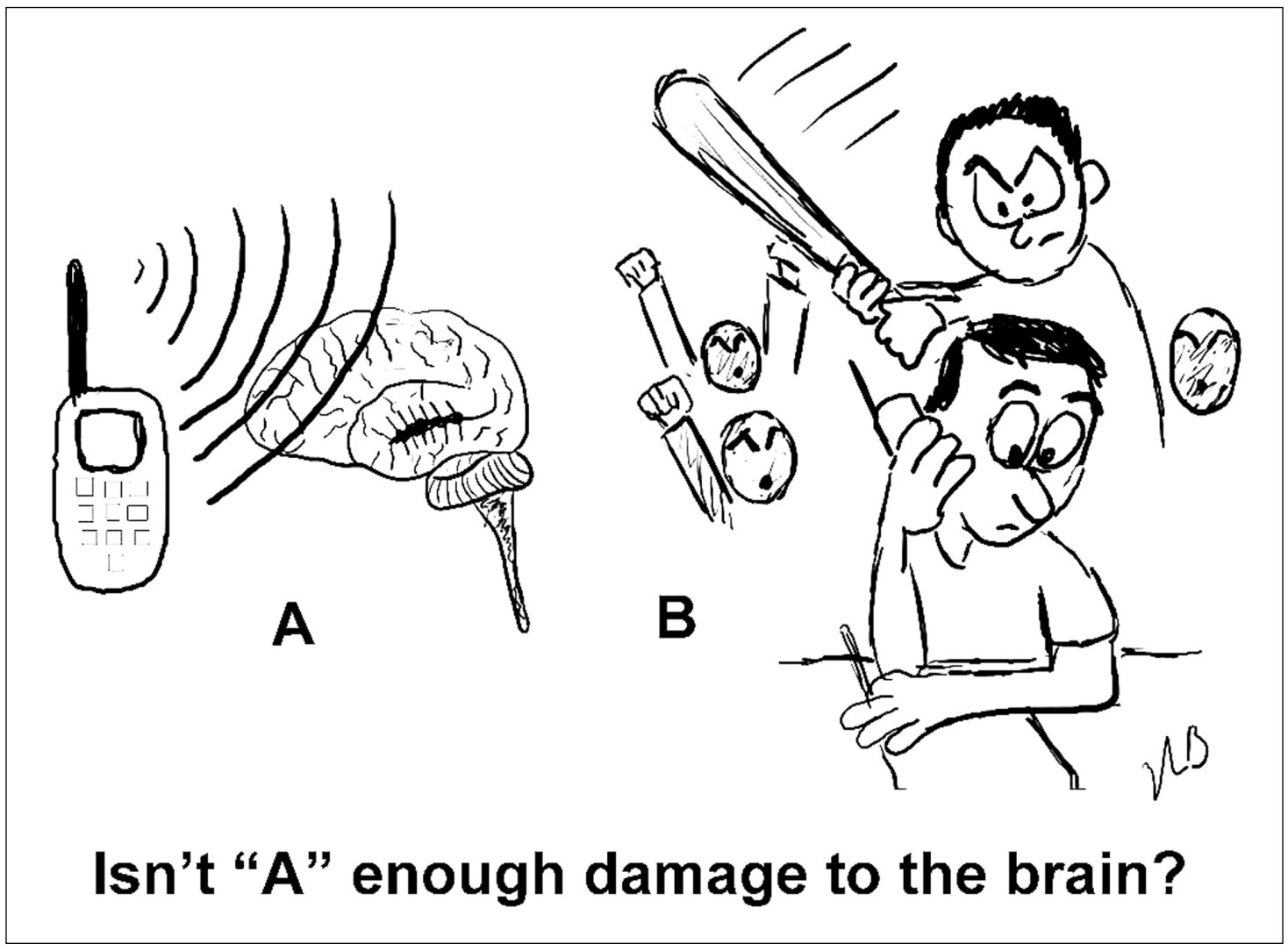
The Chart, the newspaper of Missouri Southern State University-Joplin, is published weekly, except during holidays and examination periods, from August through May by students in communications as a laboratory experience. Views expressed do not represent the opinions of the administration, faculty or the student body.

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor must be signed originals and include the writer's address and phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 300 words. *The Chart* reserves the right to edit or refuse letters on the basis of length, clarity, accuracy and liability. Letters will be chosen for publication by *The Chart* editors according to space considerations.



Please, turn off thy phone

Chart Opinion

In 18th-century France, it was the guillotine. In the old West, it was stepping in horse manure. Today, cell phones ringing in class mark the No. 1 annoyance.

Cell phones are convenient and, in cases of emergency, they are lifesavers. However, they serve no purpose interrupting classroom discussions, nor should cell phones distract from proper and safe driving.

Students should observe a proper code of conduct when entering the classroom. They should first know the instructor's policies involving cell phone use. Cell phones should also be turned off or at least set on silent mode before going into a classroom. Students should also not expect to answer cell phones in class.

Common sense should dictate that no one likes being interrupted in the middle of a test by the Jeopardy theme song, or some other downloadable jingle.

Should an emergency arise, students should make sure the instructor knows about the emergency and the possibility of a cell phone ringing during class. Instructors are human, too, and understand if students have a legitimate reason for using cell phones in class.

Drivers who use cell phones should either pull over when talking on a cell phone or use a headset to make sure their attention is focused on the road. Nothing is more frustrating than accidents involving cell phones. Such accidents could have been avoided.

The Chart does not condemn cell phones, but embraces the importance of responsible and safe usage by any person.

Campus Voice BY NANCY HIGHT-MORRIS

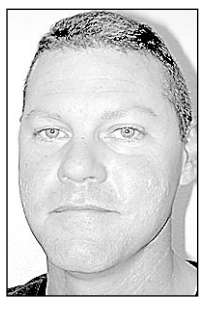
What do you think about cell phones in class?

"It doesn't really bother me. I think most people turn them off before class anyway."

Marcy Rives
Freshman
Dental Hygiene
Major

"I think they're fine. Most people only turn them on for emergencies anyway."

Amanda Wilson
Freshman
Elementary Education
Major



"I figure if people want to sit and have a conversation they should step out of class."

Ron Short
Freshman
Radiological Tech
Major

"If a phone goes off, they should've turned it to vibrate before class, so as not to interrupt the class."

Shawn Ellis
Sophomore
Undecided
Major

"I don't care if they have a cell phone, but they should at least turn it to vibrate."

Gina Smith
Sophomore
Dental Hygiene
Major

In Perspective

Taking risks, being responsible develops respect for all parties involved

I was sitting, wondering what to write about. My assignment: a *Chart* "In Perspective" column. Deadline: Tuesday, 5 p.m. (it was Monday afternoon). Looking for inspiration, I scanned my limited surroundings and quickly spotted the sign just above eye level, "Please Flush." Hmm. That seemed a good idea ...

Dr. Joy Dworkin
Professor of English

That evening I asked my 9-year-old for advice. "Write about school," he told me. Sometimes the simplest, most obvious thing may be what's needed. So, in a desperate and hopelessly old-fashioned attempt to view my textual world as coherent, here are my claims for links between that crucial custodial counsel and Jeremy's directive.

First, at least some of the time, break the pair and go for the flush. Take the more difficult professor, select the longer story for your oral presentation, make the wilder and wackier analogy. You could even read beyond the assigned coursework, like one composition student I have this semester who put aside Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience" as class was starting the other day (thank you, Jason).

"So go for the flush, get all flushed, and remember to flush."

Dr. Joy Dworkin
Professor of English

Second, forget about being cool. Get into it. Get hot for it, in fact.

This isn't high school, and you're not more likely to get a date if you act like you're too cool to care. (You certainly don't endear yourself to your professors with that protective cloud of indifference.) The only way you can really fall in love with this process is to risk yourself.

So when your comp professor makes an argument about the war in Iraq with which you disagree, challenge her (thank you, Brian).

When you don't understand the directions, or the material, or the purpose for an assignment, ask (politely).

Share your concern for the environment, or for the fact that class has run 10 minutes over (thanks, Liz; thanks, Jamison).

You won't even know whether or not you'd want to kiss him if you can't look him in the eye. Expose yourself.

And finally, the obvious, make an effort.

The staff really shouldn't have to put up those signs in the stalls. Your professors shouldn't have to tell you that you don't get a good grade just for showing up.

You really do have to do the assignments, the writing, the reading, the thinking.

It makes a difference when you proofread your papers and show pride in your work.

Why would someone else prize your work if you don't? Clean up after yourself. Demonstrate some independence and eagerness, like the student who completed the turn-in-as-you-go assignments (not "absolutely due" until the end of the semester) within the first few weeks of class (thanks, Hope).

So go for the flush, get all flushed, and remember to flush.

When it comes to higher education, taking some risks, while being responsible, is respectful.

If you are just going through the motions, it's clear you don't respect yourself, and neither one of us will respect the other in the morning.

Studying Abroad!

Fair offers chance for world travel

BY NATE BILLINGS
International Editor

The world was opened to the feet of students at Missouri Southern Nov. 19.

The Study Abroad Fair opened its doors to students at 9 a.m. with the theme, "Where in the world are YOU going?"

Cookies and snacks were served. Several prizes were also raffled off.

"I think it was pretty cool," said Beth Krudwig, sophomore secondary speech and theatre education major. "Now I want to go everywhere."

She said she did not know about the fair until she saw the fliers and signs outside of Billingsly Student Center.

Ben Lambert, freshman history and pre-law major, said he had known about the fair before he came.

"You get to experience other cultures while you are still young and can enjoy it," Lambert said.

He said the instructors there were very helpful and shared with him as much as they could about each trip he became interested in.

Instructors at the fair agreed.

Trish Udell, adjunct professor with the Institute of International Studies, said the fair is an important avenue for the trips because the instructors are allowed more one-on-one conversations with the students.

Karen Lynch, coordinator with the International Business Internship Exchange, said she was pleased with the fair.

"I'm impressed with the number of students. It is very well attended," she said.

Around 350 students attended the fair before it ended at 1 p.m.

The fair allowed Lynch to promote several internship opportunities in Germany, Ghana, Japan, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

"I'm glad the University does this," Lambert said.

"It breaks up the monotony."

Other students agreed the fair allowed more exposure for the departments that have overseas trips, but have not reached all students.

> *"It broadens the horizons and makes the college experience a little more interesting."*
>
> **Ben Lambert**
> *Freshman History and Pre-Law Major*

"It does peak their (student's) interest for future trips," said Jalon Smith, junior elementary education major.

Smith was promoting the education department's annual study abroad trip.

She said although the upcoming trip to Scotland and the United Kingdom was full, students could see the potential for going on the subsequent trips.

Lindsey Mason, senior international business major, said she and other students have benefited from the fair because the fair allows students to see all aspects of the trips.

Mason went to London as part of the IBIE program.

She worked with Lynch to speak with other interested students.

Some instructors would agree with Mason.

"It (the fair) gives students an opportunity to see what is available for overseas study and internships," said Dr. John Lewis, associate professor of international business.

Lewis said through the fair, students are opened to opportunities that will not only allow them to study abroad, but increase the potential for employment and foreign language experience.

He said, however, students do not realize many of the internships available are not paid positions.

One student, however, thinks the fair offered more than just study trips, but rather an opportunity to escape the everyday toils of life.

"It (the fair) broadens the horizons and makes the college experience a little more interesting," Lambert said.

He said he thinks the international mission at Southern was a means to keep students from transferring or dropping out.

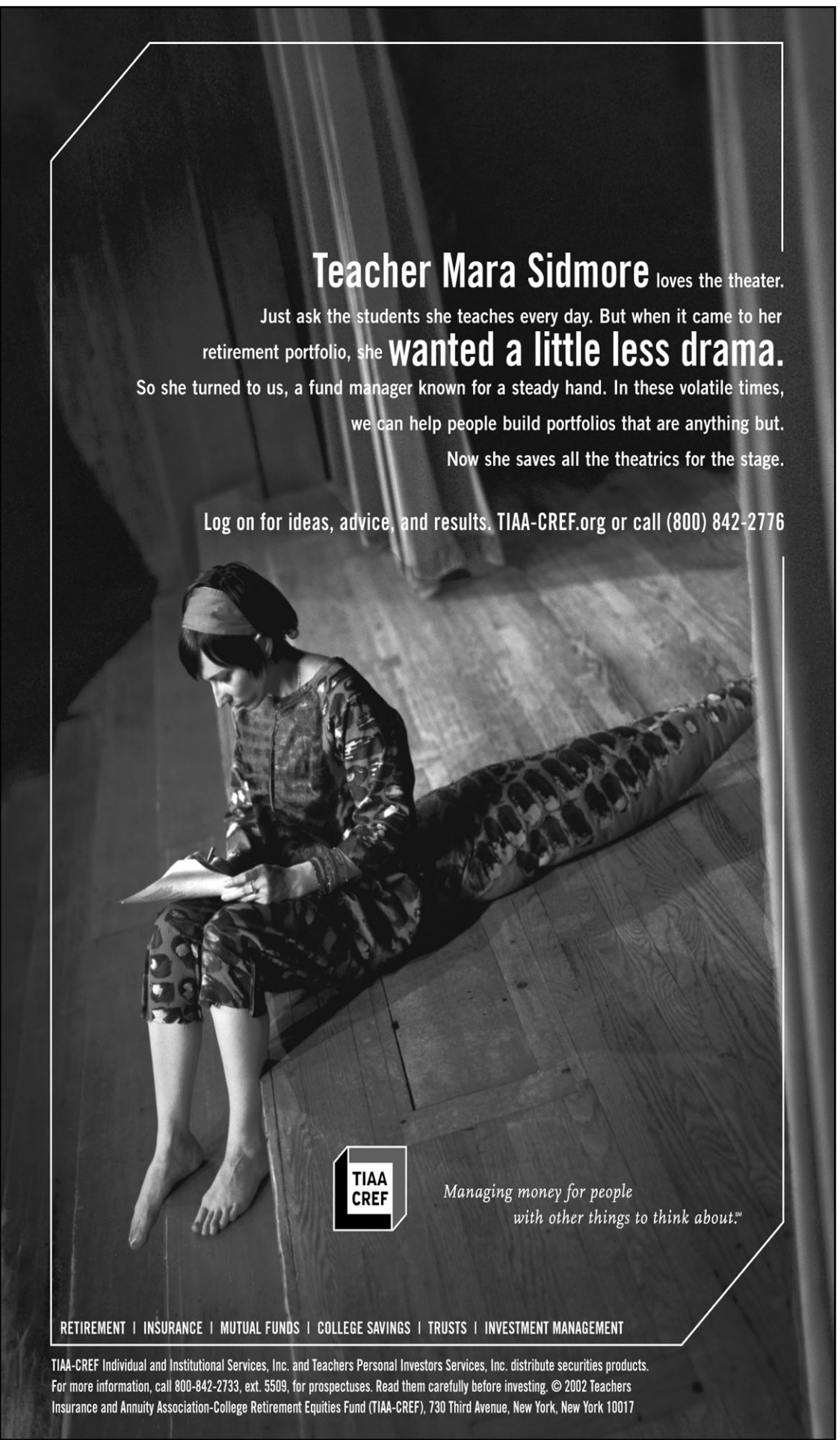
Any person who missed the fair may contact the Institute for more information on the study abroad programs offered on or off campus at 625-4442.

The Institute's office is located in Webster Hall, Room 317.

Patti Richardson/The Chart

(Above) The possibilities for studying abroad peaked David Torres', junior accounting major, interest. (Left) Dr. Chad Stebbins and Codi Price, sophomore mass communications major, engage in discussion about overseas travel.

Naoko Onoda/ The Chart


Teacher Mara Sidmore loves the theater.
Just ask the students she teaches every day. But when it came to her
retirement portfolio, she wanted a little less drama.
So she turned to us, a fund manager known for a steady hand. In these volatile times,
we can help people build portfolios that are anything but.
Now she saves all the theatrics for the stage.
Log on for ideas, advice, and results. TIAA-CREF.org or call (800) 842-2776
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Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), 730 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017

Committee approves 10 trips for international opportunities

BY ALICE HOSSAIN
Staff Writer

Traveling to countries around the world is a unique experience.

Hiking through Costa Rica's lowland rain forests and sightseeing tours in Paris and Strasbourg are only two of the many highlights offered by the grants for student group study abroad in 2003-2004.

The Institute of International Studies recently announced this year's grant approvals. Every year there is a competition for student group study abroad. Instructors who wanted their students to apply for these trips had to undergo a competitive procedure by submitting an application to the Institute.

"Because our funding is limited we cannot send any group that wishes to travel, so that is a competitive process," said Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute and chairman of the study abroad group committee. "We have an international grants committee that reviews all the application and the proposals and they give each one a score. Then we come together, we have a meeting, and we decide which trips to fund. This year there were 14 applications, and we were able to fund 10 of the 14."

The international grants committee uses different criteria to evaluate the proposals. Academic rigor of the trip, itemized budget and cost-efficiency of the trip and student report completion rate from previous trips are the most important criteria. There are eight members of the committee including four deans and a faculty member from each of the four schools.

Dr. Conrad Gubera, professor of sociology and international studies, is one of the committee members.

"We have criteria that we have to evaluate," Gubera said. "These criteria are very specific as far as the kind of language and the kind of format and how these particular programs are supposed to be put together in organization and content. That is where some of our major decisions are made. Because sometimes some of the programs do not conform or do not meet these standards."

He said some programs were wonderful but were sometimes not formalized correctly.

As a result, instructors have to redo their applications. Because the trips have particular class content, students get credit for them.

"They have to write papers, come back, and get an official grade on the transcript and studies are then incorporated as sort of a placement or field study," Gubera said.

Each approved trip had a different number of students to take. If the instructor ends up with 20 applications, but can only take 15, he has to form a small committee to evaluate the applications and decide which 15 students to select.

Dr. Roger Chelf, professor of physics, and Dr. Gerald Schlink, professor of biology, applied for a trip to Europe and are pleased to be funded.

"Gerald and I applied to take a group of students to Poland, Czech Republic and Germany to study Koch, Mendel and Copernicus," Chelf said. "We were funded. We also receive funding to take 15 students. So now students must apply."

Chelf and Schlink did not randomly choose the three countries they will visit.

"These are the locations were the scientists are from and done their great work," Chelf said, "Copernicus was the person who has done the heliocentric model of the universe, Mendel is well known for his work in genetics and Koch is pretty big in bacteriology. Gerald will be the Koch and Mendel expert and I will be the Copernicus expert."

Chelf and Schlink are going to do a one-hour Blackboard course in spring where they will teach students about these three scientists.

"It's a great way to enhance our international program," Chelf said, "We selected this trip to get some science students involved. It will be a great way to give students a cultural exchange. They will see the currencies, they will see the cultures, the languages as well as learn some of the fundamentals of some of the great men of science."

Other destinations will bring students to some exotic places in the world. Two of the trips are going to Mexico and to Spain.

"There is a sponsored program to look at the Maya ruin," Gubera said, "We will meet an anthropologist there who is a specialist in that area. He will be our guide for five or six days, gives us lectures and classes, give us a real feeling of what the culture of these people 2000 years ago was like. This gives the students an opportunity to have an academic as well as travel experience."

Whether France, Costa Rica or the United Kingdom, students officially nominated for the international grant can expect a range of selections in different areas throughout the world to participate in.

Patti Richardson/The Chart

Brandon Nivens, senior mass communications major, left, Phil Burkhart, former biology major, and Devin Krtek, former psychology major, practice as members of the band One Track Mind.

Local student band realizes musical dream

By Melissa Dunson
Diversions Editor

Success comes in many different forms.

For the members of the local band One Track Mind, success is merely the opportunity to play their music one more time.

Twice a week for the past three years, Brandon Nivens, senior mass communications major, Devin Krtek, former junior psychology major, and Phil Burkhart, former senior biology major, have lugged huge amplifiers, drum sets and electric guitars up a flight of stairs, sometimes in freezing weather, to Burkhart's unfinished raised garage.

"We have to do this after every show," Nivens said, "It really sucks when you play like four times a month."

The room that serves as a backdrop for the musical musings of the three men consists of two armchairs, one electric orange, the other a pea green model with only two legs, both on the same side, an old couch with a hole worn in the center and yellow stuffing peeking out and several folding chairs. All of these are arranged in a half moon facing the center of the room where the members puffed on their cigarettes in the cold night air and repeated the same equipment set-up, meticulous and calculated, that they have a hundred times before.

A round kerosene heater that the band members affectionately refer to as "R2-D2" sits in the center of the room offering empty promises of warmth.

The moment the amps were plugged in, the dynamic of the room changed immediately.

The air seemed electrically charged and the growing squeal of guitar feedback erupted into a surging, explosive collection of slap bass, rolling drums and heavy pounding guitar. Suddenly the modest room seemed out of place in the presence of a talented and charismatic band.

The path to rock stardom was slow for the trio. Nivens, guitar and vocals, and Krtek, bass, were neighbors during their teenage years when the dream of making music began.

"Brandon would make songs by himself in his trailor, and I would come over and bother him and force him to let me play on them," Krtek said. "But I didn't know how to play anything at all. But I had this itty bitty bass from the 1970s and a guitar amp, so I bothered him enough and let him borrow my bass so that I could play on the little songs that he made on his computer."

The band's early recordings, called "Mind Orgies," produced some music that the band can laugh at now.

"We were yelling down a Christmas wrapping paper tube, singing into it about Denny's," Nivens said.

Burkhart, drums, began playing when a friend bet him that he couldn't.

"So, one day a guy pulls up and he asks me if I want some drums because he has some out in the car for sale for $300," Burkhart said. "So, I bought them. I'd never played them before in my life."

Three months later, Burkhart and Nivens won the 2000 battle of the bands at Missouri Southern.

The band is an unlikely bunch.

Nivens is a paradoxical vision. His waist long hair, pierced eyebrow, and Cobainesque fatigues scream rebel, but in person he is relaxed and philosophical.

Krtek, with his shock of dark hair and ornery smile, is energetic and quick to control the conversation. At 22 years old, he is the youngest member of the group, but likes to consider himself the band's producer.

Burkhart wears a short strawberry-blonde ponytail, is easy going and likes to laugh. Always willing to lighten the tone with humor, he acts as a sounding board and mediator for the other two members.

Unlike other musicians, the members of One Track Mind aren't concerned with defining their music.

"I wish somebody would tell me," Burkhart said. "I ask people all the time what we sound like, because I have trouble putting into words."

The members emphasize the fact that their music is always maturing, because the band records every performance and reviews it later.

"The music we have now is much tighter and much more diverse than before," Krtek said. "And that makes for a not-boring show."

Their greatest moment as a band came in July at an outdoor concert in a field behind Burkhart's house in Racine that attracted 450 people. Four bands performed including One Track Mind.

During the last transition of their last song, a generator powering amps and lights went out. Burkhart continued playing the drums while Nivens and Krtek beat-boxed in the dark. At a pivotal moment, the lights and sound returned and the band finished with a grand finale. The audience thought it was a part of the act and erupted in applause.

"It was kind of a time when you had everybody at your will," Krtek said.

"When the lights come back on and there's this sea of people out there and they're going crazy, it gives you this whole surreal feeling," he said.

One Track Mind has one CD available called *The Pendulum Odyssey* and another in the works tentatively titled *The Gentle Alien.*

Their next concert date is 8 p.m. on Nov. 29 at The Cesspool. The Yoosch will open for the show that is dedicated to Krtek's mother. A portion of the show will be devoted to her requests including Jimi Hendrix and The Doors.

In spite of its success, One Track Mind promises to remain unapologetically original.

"We want to be one of those bands that makes a million dollars," Nivens said, "not because we're trying to, but just because we're that good. We're not trying to sell records or play what other people want to hear, but just making music because we want to."

Krtek offered a more colorful version.

"I would like people to think that we had some kind of purpose or meaning or message to get across to people," he said, "that we're thought provoking music as opposed to glam rock-intelligent rock, y'know, people who don't talk about mundane (B.S.)."

Patti Richardson/The Chart

(Above Right) Devin Krtek plays electric bass. (Above) Phil Burkhart plays drums for the local band One Track Mind. The band mixes alternative hard rock with melodic guitars and vocals.

The Southern Percussion Ensemble puts a new spin on traditional recitals. Read the story for information.

Josh Zimmer, junior undecided major, plays crash cymbal during practice of the percussion ensemble.

Patti Richardson/The Chart

Percussion group expands into new sounds

BY ARON CROUSE
Staff Writer

A new sound fills the music department with the recently organized percussion ensemble.

"Percussion is such a broad area and I wanted to bring that here and expand the music department," said Dr. Jeremy Kushner, director of percussions studies and the ensemble.

Kushner has been teaching at Missouri Southern since 2002, but this is the first official year to have the percussion ensemble. He taught at Laredo (Texas) Community College for three years and before that he taught at the University of Florida for two years. Kushner organized percussion ensembles at LCC and the UF.

He recently received his doctorate from Arizona State University.

The percussion ensemble is also known as the chamber ensemble. A chamber ensemble is made up of only eight or nine people and is smaller than an orchestra.

"Each person has an important role," Kushner said. "It's much more intense for them."

Kushner said that one of his short-term goals was to develop a core group of players and teach them the art of ensemble.

Kushner said he came to Southern because he thought that there was an opportunity here since the University has never had a permanent percussion background.

> *"I hope people will be surprised and entertained and that we have fun."*
>
> **Dr. Jeremy Kushner**
> *Director of Percussion Studies*

"He tries to bring in a different approach to how people perceive ensembles," said Josh Zimmer, junior undecided major.

Kushner said that the ensemble offers students a chance to really get their hands dirty, develop their skills and help them learn to work together. He said the ensemble is open to anyone with percussion background, not just percussion majors.

The percussion ensemble will host its first concert at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8 in Taylor Auditorium, free to the public.

"It's a lot of fun, but my big thing is jazz," said Seth White, freshman percussion major.

He also said he would definitely be back next year.

"I wanted to have a theme, and since the University has a strong international goal, I went with that," Kushner said.

The upcoming concert offers culturally diverse music with musical influences from Mexico, Brazil and Japan. All music will be played with the xylophone, the tom toms, the bass, the snare and other traditional percussion instruments. Kushner said he doesn't know what to really expect from the first concert, but hopes for a large turnout.

"I hope people will be surprised and entertained and that we have fun," Kushner said.

Joel Thomas, junior secondary education major, said an assortment of genres can be expected, and the concert will peak the interest of a lot of people.

"I am looking forward to the concert and to working with Kushner in future semesters," Thomas said.

All of the students associated with the ensemble are proficient on 10 instruments.

"While normal people have to learn and play one instrument, we have to play four instruments," Zimmer said.

Kushner said he plans to recruit students from all over the region and develop them into one of the top ensembles in the state.

Latin dance raises funds, awareness

BY DAVID HAUT
Staff Writer

Grab a sombrero, find some maracas and don't forget the bongos.

The Spanish club is hosting a night of Latin music and dance. Sponsored by Missouri Southern's Spanish Club, the group promises a night of fun.

"We did it a couple of years ago," said Audri Manary, senior spanish major and president of the Spanish Club. "It wasn't very successful, but it was a whole lot of fun."

The last dance held by the Spanish Club took place at Memorial Hall. This semester, it will be held at the University.

Every semester, the Spanish Club is allowed one event as a fund-raiser.

"Also for part of the fund-raiser, some of the professors have volunteered to have a jar with their name on it," said Leslie Parker, faculty advisor to the Spanish Club. "At the end of the night, the professor with the most money will get a pie in the face. I hope I don't win."

You're Invited

What: Latin Dance
Where: Billingsly
When: 8 p.m., Friday

Don't worry, dressing up is optional.

The cost is $2. Tickets may be purchased at the ticket office or at the door. All proceeds will go to the Spanish Club.

Some food and drinks will be provided. Dance lessons will begin at 8 p.m.

Parker said that another goal of the dance is to intermix Spanish language students of different levels.

All students are invited to attend, regardless of Spanish-speaking ability. Students who aren't able to attend but are interested in Spanish Club can find information on the kiosk on the third floor of Webster Hall.

The Spanish Club meets at 12:15 p.m. on Thursdays. The dates are posted on the kiosk.

The dance will take place at 8 p.m. Friday in the Connor Ballroom on the third floor of Billingsly Student Center.

"Please come," said Angie Foster, junior spanish and biology major. "It will be a lot of fun."

Group plans free food for students

BY T.J. GERLACH
Public Forum Editor

The second work meeting for the Campus Activities Board focused on advertising for upcoming events.

"The area of CAB that lacks is advertising," said Julie Blackford, director of student activities.

CAB's next event, a burger and fry day, is scheduled for 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Dec. 3 in the Lion's Den.

Students will receive one hamburger, one order of fries and a drink for free, but all students must show their student IDs to receive their free food.

The giveaway will cost CAB $2.50 per student and Blackford said she may have to limit it to 400 or so students.

The next week, on Dec. 10, also in the Lion's Den, CAB will have a picture day.

The Board wants to find someone from off campus to dress as Santa Claus, but students may opt to not have the jolly man in their pictures.

"Hopefully we can find a Santa," Blackford said. "If not, we'll just set up a scene. We just want our students to have a good feeling before they leave for the holidays."

CAB Campus Activities Board

More than likely, the pictures will be taken digitally, developed at Wal-Mart and made available for pick-up in the student activities office.

During the picture day, CAB will give away pens, ice scrapers or calculators.

Blackford and the members in attendance focused on making fliers and other advertisements for these events.

Finding masters of ceremony for both the talent show and the Mr./Miss Missouri Southern Pageant was also discussed

Area Events

If your organization has an event you would like publicized, call Melissa Dunson at 625-9311.

21

Dr. Suess' The Cat in the Hat, and *Gothika* open at the Northstar 14 Theaters.

Far From Yesterday, Ilijah and Signal 3 concert @ 9 p.m. @ The Green Room.

Dakota Blue @ 8 p.m. @ The Kitchen Pass.

Tribute to Frank Sinatra @ 7 p.m. @ Fusion Bistro.

Woodshed @ 7:30 p.m. @ Emporium in Carthage.

Bowling For Columbine movie showing @ 7 p.m. @ Webster Hall Auditorium.

22

Glory Days "Live Music Cafe" @ 8 p.m @ Glory Days Music.

Macon concert @ 10 p.m. @ The Green Room.

23

Karaoke from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. @ Murphy's Irish Pub.

24

BSU Joy Explosion @ 7 p.m.

25

BSU Lunch-n-Counter @ Noon.

CAB meeting @ 2 p.m. second floor BSC.

26

Karaoke and all-you-can-eat Tacos @ 8 p.m. @ J-Town

Karaoke @ 10 p.m. @ The Green Room.

Richard Roberts Jazz Classics @ 6 p.m. @ Fusion Bistro.

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker @ 7:30 p.m. @ Joplin Memorial Hall.

27

Thanksgiving

Krazy Karaoke @ 9 p.m. @ Champ's Bar and Grill

Campus Crusade for Christ @ 7:30 p.m. @ the Student Life Center.

Useless Information:

All information was taken from: http://www.amusingfacts.com

Camel is considered unclean meat in the Bible.

In 1631, two London Bible printers accidentally left the word "not" out of the seventh commandment, which then read, "Thou shalt commit adultery." This legendary book is now known as the "Wicked Bible."

In New Mexico, over 11 thousand people have visited a tortilla chip that appeared to have the face of Jesus Christ burned into it.

Parts of the Dead Sea Scrolls appeared for sale in the June 1, 1954 issue of the *Wall Street Journal*.

There's a temple in Sri Lanka dedicated to a tooth of the Buddha. The name of the temple is "Temple of the Tooth."

Abdul Kassam Ismael, Grand Vizier of Persia in the 10th century, carried his library with him wherever he went. Four hundred camels carried the 117,000 volumes.

Among the Buganda people of Uganda, the widows of a deceased king have the honor of drinking beer in which the dead king's entrails have been cleaned.

During the 16th century, newly married couples in France had to stand naked outdoors while the groom kissed the bride's left foot and big toe as part of traditional customs.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Joplin Family YMCA prepares for holidays

Christmas seems to come earlier each year, but believe it or not, its just about that time once again.

Santa is coming Dec. 6 to the south facility of the Joplin Family YMCA.

The jolly old elf will be visiting with area children at the Y from 4-6 p.m.

For families making plans for the New Year, the YMCA is hosting a youth lock-in to ring in 2004. The lock-in is from 8 p.m. on New Year's Eve to 6 a.m. on New Year's Day. For children ages 4-9 at the south facility and 10-15 at the downtown facility, fees are $30 for the first child and $25 for each additional child in the same family. Registration is required and deadline for sign up is Dec. 22.

For information, persons may call the YMCA at 623-4597.

Charles Dickens Faire returns for second year

The Neosho Chamber of Commerce announces the Dickens Christmas Faire. The faire will be held from noon to 5 p.m. on Dec. 6 at the downtown square in Neosho. There will be costumed Christmas craft vendors, carolers, costumed Dickens characters and horse-drawn carriage rides.

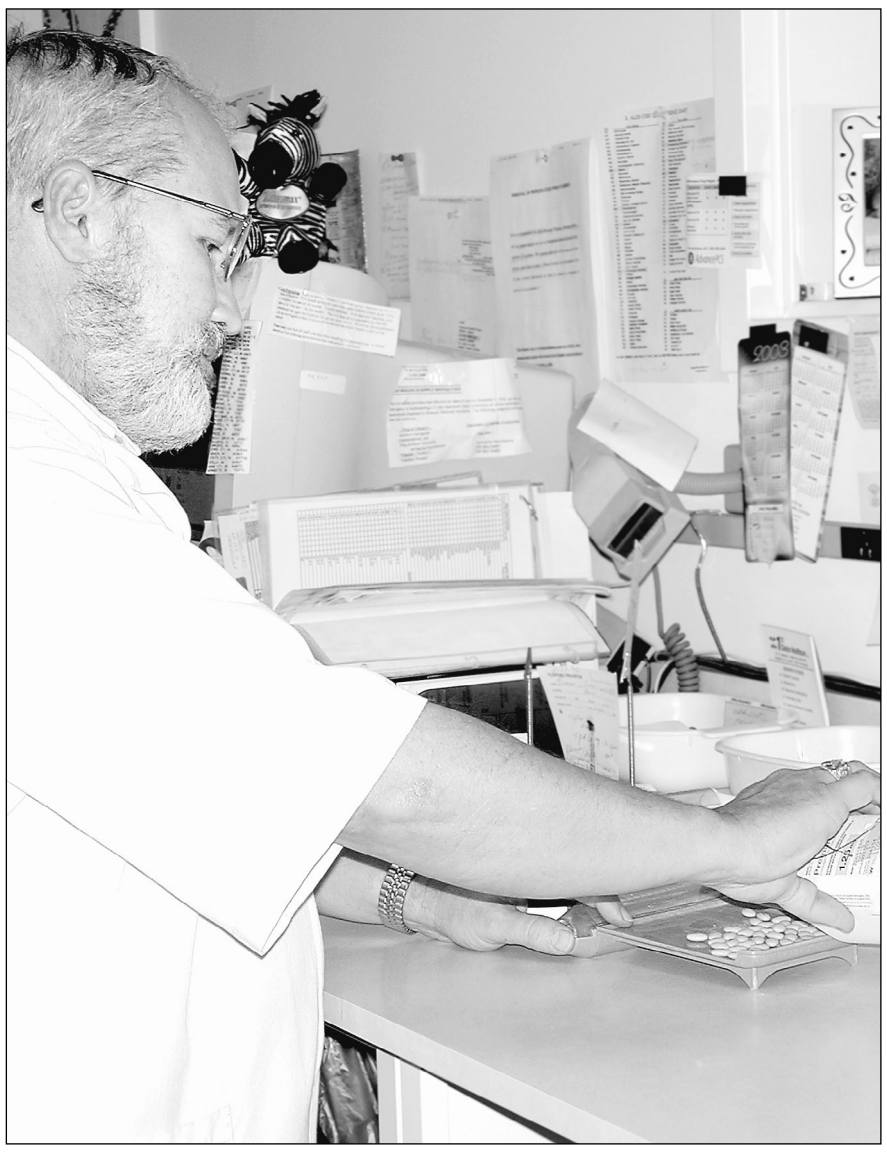
For information, persons may call 417-451-1925.

Carver Monument hosts doll workshop

The George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond offers a host of weekend activities beginning with a doll-making workshop from 2-4 p.m. Friday for children age 8 and older.

At the workshop, children can make their own cornhusk doll to take home.

For information, persons may contact the park at 417-325-4151.



Michelle Conty/The Chart

Glenn Lee, pharmacy manager at May's Drug Warehouse, fills a prescription. Lee said there are risks in taking imported drugs.

States explore drug options; some skeptical

BY JONATHAN BEVILLE
City Editor

Prescription drugs, an annual political hot potato, became the topic of conversation in Kansas, Nov. 14, as Gov. Kathleen Sebelius announced her support for lifting the ban on Canadian pharmaceutical products.

Prescription drugs from Canada have been a topic of much discussion, as efforts have been made by the federal government to prevent private citizens from purchasing medication from Canadian pharmacies at a reduced rate.

Medications are cheaper in Canada because of the nationalized healthcare system in place there.

Sebelius ordered Bob Day, director of health planning and finance, to explore how dollar-for-dollar savings should the state purchase prescription drugs from Canada for state employees and needy residents.

"What we are doing right now is looking at the numbers," said Nicole Corcoran, spokeswoman for Sebelius.

"What we are doing that for is simply to put some pressure on the federal government."

There are, however, inherent risks with the so-called Canadian Drug option, said Glenn Lee, pharmacy manager at May's Drug Warehouse in Webb City.

"Canada and the U.S. have different regulations," Lee said. "In the United States, each batch of a drug must be certified."

Several states and communities have begun to trumpet the possible benefits of importing drugs from Canada. The governors of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin have all announced their states willingness to explore importing prescriptions in attempts to slash state health care costs. Each of the governors involved are Democrats except Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota.

Lee said the states pushing this are looking at their own wallets.

"I think a lot of them are doing it to

TURN TO **DRUGS**, PAGE 11A

Supreme Court sets date, gun case on fast track

BY JONATHAN BEVILLE
City Editor

An order bearing the signature of the chief justice of the Missouri State Supreme Court was handed down Nov. 19, sustaining a motion by the state to expedite hearings on the concealed weapons law.

A date for the presentation of oral arguments in the case has been set for Jan. 22.

The past 10 days have seen both sides in the case jostling for position with Attorney General Jay Nixon's office vying to hasten the law's day in court.

In a brief filed with the court Nov. 14, the office of the attorney general said, "The court must act now to stop the delaying tactics of the plaintiffs in this case."

Plaintiffs in the case filed motions opposing the attorney general's request to expedite hearings on the matter.

Attorneys representing Alvin Brooks, mayor pro tem of Kansas City, and the other nine plaintiffs listed in the suit said the state's request violates the rules of the court.

Dr. Michael Yates, professor of social science, said it may take more than the Supreme Court to get concealed weapons into the hands of Missourians.

"Regardless of whether you believe in the law or not, my interpretation of the constitution was that legislature could not adopt this by a simple act of legislation, but rather by a constitutional amendment," Yates said.

The initial case presented by Brooks, et al, presented five points in which they maintain the law is flawed. Aside from the constitutional questions surrounding the right to bear arms, lawyers for the plaintiffs indicated they will resume their opposition to the law on the grounds that it violates the Hancock Amendment of the state constitution.

Brooks and the other plaintiffs filed the lawsuit in October to block the concealed weapons law from taking effect. One day before the law was to take effect, Circuit Court Judge Steven Ohmer ruled on a temporary injunction against the measure.

Ohmer ruled Nov. 7 to make the ruling permanent, prompting immediate appeals by the state.

The ruling has also garnered a reaction from students at Missouri Southern.

"I don't see how one person should have so much power," said Ginny Wallace, junior elementary education major.

The Missouri State Supreme Court ruled unanimously Oct. 13 to let the initial temporary injunction imposed by Ohmer stand.

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THE CHART

File Photo

Drawing on her heritage and her travels, Dr. Ruth Behar translates poems and other works based on the Cuban traditions for students Oct. 22 in Webster Hall Auditorium.

Cuba Semester concludes

BY NATE BILLINGS
International Editor

With only one tentative event left, the Cuba Semester is winding down.

"I thought it was really a wonderful semester," said Dr. Gwen Murdock, professor and head of psychology.

Murdock is also a member of the Cuba Semester planning committee.

"I thought it (the Cuba Semester) was the best yet," she said.

The semester boasted the most events of any theme semester with around 40 events. The attendance for the events was also up. One event, the Gockel International Symposium, had a record attendance.

"We utilized several different class periods," said Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute of International Studies.

Stebbins said the schedule of events was planned out to allow students more time to see the events.

Murdock said, however, she would like to see the events of future themed semesters spread out more during the semester.

She also said she would like to see a closing event for the semester to allow students and faculty to come together and discuss the whole semester. The semester events were planned based on previous theme semesters.

"[This semester is] just another example of how we learn to improve the theme semesters each year," said Rod Surber, director of public information and member of the planning committee.

Some students agreed with Surber.

"I think they've (the committee) done a pretty good job," said Leigh Babbit, senior history and political science major.

Babbit said she enjoyed the wide variety of lectures and videos presented during the semester. She said the Cuba Film Festival was the most enjoyable event for her, but she is looking forward to U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson's (R-Mo.) tentative speech Dec. 10.

The committee had a budget of $35,000 to spend on the event, but Stebbins said money was still left in the budget and that no exact amount could be given as to how much was spent because the committee is still receiving bills for some events.

The members of the committee are responsible for hosting and helping the individuals who come to Missouri Southern to speak at events.

Stebbins said he would like to see other departments involved in future themed semesters.

Some students would like to see other changes made to the themed semesters.

"If people just go to one building, they might not know about the semester events," said Katie Lee, sophomore art education major.

Lee said she would like to see more décor in each building dedicated to the themed semesters.

Other students would like to see different changes in the themed semesters.

"I think we need to do something more exotic," said Alan Anderson, sophomore undecided major.

Anderson would like to see the themed semesters focus on countries few people at Southern would know about.

He said the themed semesters would then add more to educate the students.

"That way, when they (students) learn something, they learn something new," he said. "We might as well learn something we didn't already know before."

Suggestions and decisions are still being made for the theme of the fall 2004.

Rainy conditions contribute to multiple-vehicle accident

BY JONATHAN BEVILLE
City Editor

Slick roads caused by rainy conditions may have attributed to the severity of a three-car accident Nov. 14 on Newman Road in front of the Anderson Justice Center at Missouri Southern.

Rachel Wheeler, senior marketing major, said she was leaving campus, making a left turn on Newman Road when she collided with an eastbound Chevrolet Suburban.

The impact with Wheeler's Honda CRV caused the Suburban to slide into the westbound lanes of traffic where it collided head-on with a Ford Ranger pickup, causing the Suburban's airbag to deploy.

"I don't know who hit who," said Dustin Carie, the driver of the pickup.

"I don't know if the Honda hit the Suburban or the Suburban hit the Honda."

Carie's wife, Jennifer, and their infant daughter were transported to Freeman Health System for examination, although no serious injuries were reported.

"I asked them (the paramedics) to take them there," he said.

Carrie said with medical insurance, it's best to be safe and check things out.

The collision caused a portable gas can in the bed of the pickup to be thrown from the vehicle. It cracked, spilling gasoline onto the road.

Paramedic Tracy Crawford, with the Joplin Fire Department, cleaned the gas spill and righted the container, preventing any further leakage.

Repeated efforts to reach the Joplin Police Department to determine citations in the accident were unsuccessful.

Mandi Steele/The Chart

Dustin Carie, center, the driver of the Ford Ranger, discusses the three-car collision on Newman Road Nov. 14 with authorities at the scene. Rain and slick roads may have contributed to the accident.

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YOUNG:

From Page 1A

policy was a challenge seeing how he had two furry creatures keeping him company.

"I got written up for the animals," he said with a smile. "I thought that was a little strange."

Although residence hall officials allowed him to keep the 29-gallon tank for his fish, he was forced to find alternative homes for the two pets.

Josh Doak, resident director of Blaine Hall, sees Pittman on a regular basis.

"He's just like another college student," Doak said. "He's exceptionally friendly."

Doak said other Blaine Hall residents have treated Pittman like a regular.

There have been a few questions, however.

"A lot of people wondered if he was a student," Doak said.

But I think they enjoy seeing change."

While Pittman is one of many non-traditional students on campus, Doak said he thinks Pittman's attempt to go back to school and live in the residence halls is a great idea.

"I think it's neat what he's doing," Doak said. "I admire him."

Pittman said he doesn't understand why people are shocked to find a 44-year-old man living in the residence halls.

He's dedicated just as many Southern students are. He hopes to pursue graduate school as well.

"I guess I'm just a late bloomer," he said.

Pittman said he holds no regrets for his big move to the residence halls. Everything has worked out for the best.

"Getting to meet new people is the best part," he said.

As the buzz about a man in his 40s being in the residence halls has died down and friendships have formed, Pittman has finally been able to concentrate on his education.

A standard that holds true to his heart.

"A lot of people have family that fulfill life, but education is what does it for me," he said. "I never want to leave school."

While the location is convenient and the cost of living is OK, it's always been the food plan that's kept Pittman happy.

"I've had to cook for myself the last 20 years," he said. "And, I really don't like my cooking."

CARDS:

From Page 1A

are more favorable than gift certificates.

"It's a popular thing with retailers today," Needham said. "[Gift cards] are easier to manage than gift certificates."

He said using certificates was more difficult to manage because if a customer did not use the full amount of the certificate, then the bookstore would have to issue a new certificate for the remaining amount. Using gift cards, the remainder of the balance is left on the card for future purchases.

The cards can be purchased in the bookstore for any amount with a minimum of $5. Gift cards can also be purchased through the bookstore's Web site, but only in $10 and $25 amounts.

Needham said he first considered replacing the gift certificates after he attended a gift card seminar at a national trade show.

When he returned, he researched other colleges and universities to check how they administered the gift cards. He found out some use an outside company to process the cards while some colleges process them in house. Southern's bookstore uses Peregrine Marketing, LLC, a national gift card service provider.

"[Gift cards] are becoming more popular in college bookstores," Needham said.

"I love them," Needham said. The gift cards have yet to become widely known. Needham said he has not had too much exposure for the cards, but he believes they will become better known in time.

"It's a great thing the departments can give out as awards," he said. He said gift cards are easier to give away because there is no concern for sizes or personal choice.

Mary Katheryn, cashier at the bookstore, said she has not yet sold a gift card, but has some one or two used.

The cards may be slow to catch on, but Needham thinks the benefits will come.

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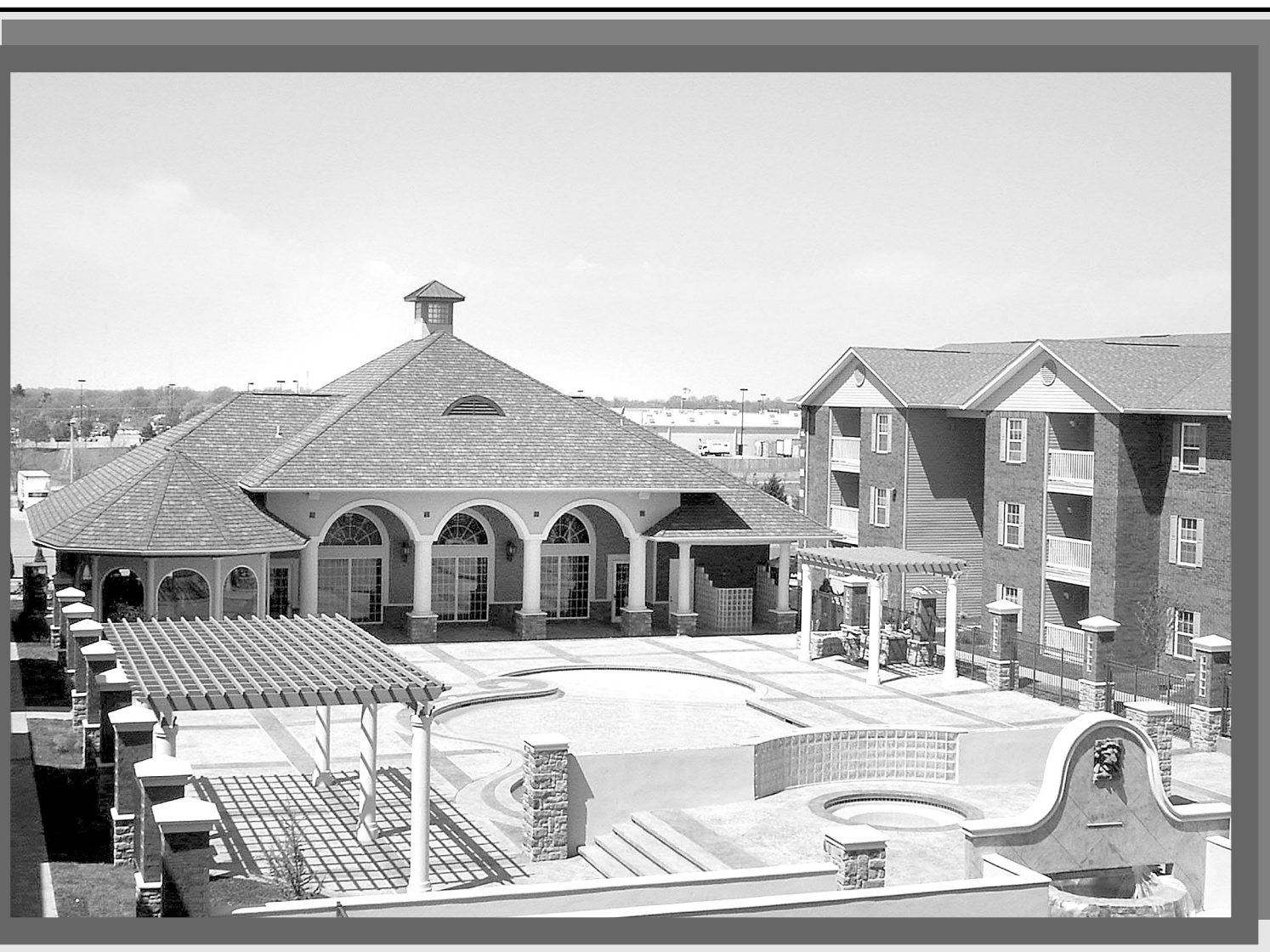

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ART SPECTACULAR

Russ Hagerman/The Chart

Lisa Hewlett, senior art education major, studies a piece called "Civilization Simulation: Illumination, Source and Resource." The piece is a part of a larger collection called "Artcessories: The Fun Art of Furnishings" at the Spiva Center for the Arts. The center is located at 222 W. Third St. in downtown Joplin. The "Artcessories" exhibit will be at the gallery from Nov. 14-30. The exhibit features creations by area artists who transform furniture into art. The art is being displayed to benefit both the artists and the gallery.

SAFETY:

From Page 1A

not entered into a database. Rather they are given to the parents to have in case of an emergency.

In the future, Spurlin said he hopes to include the University in a nationwide program to help track missing children.

"We would like to be the first center in the area for AMBER Alert DNA kits," he said. "We would be the first college to do such a thing, everywhere else it's housed within a law enforcement agency."

Spurlin said he hopes Southern could become the central four-state hub for AMBER Alert.

The AMBER Alert is a program designed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children launched in 2001.

The U.S. Department of Justice announced Sept. 3 the recovery of the 100th child to be rescued through efforts attributed to the AMBER Alert program.

The non-custodial mother and captor of a 2-year-old boy in Demotte, Ind. surrendered to authorities when she realized the AMBER Alert network was in force.

The coalition also held its annual fund-raiser through a silent auction at the fingerprinting session.

The money raised through the auction goes to the coalition, which in turn distributes it to area charities benefiting children.

"We are involved with AMBER alert, The Children's Haven, the Department of Family Services, The Lafayette House and others," Spurlin said.

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PHONE:

From Page 1A

out well," he said. "We plow the money right back into their own programs."

"Something else we are doing differently this year is encouraging the multi-payment gift pledge over a three-year period," Betebenner said.

Thirty percent of last year's pledges were multi-gift pledges.

The goal of this year's Phonathon is $200,000.

"We know some of the money will come in over the next 3 years," he said. "But this will be a jump start for the Capital Campaign."

The Foundation will be employing 30 students to work the phones starting Nov. 25 through the end of April. The flexible schedule appeals to the students.

"It allows me to earn a little extra money," said Heather Hilton, sophomore nursing major. "It pays more than other on campus jobs, and I can work around my class schedule."

Hilton worked on the Phonathon last year and is returning this year.

"It's a good way to network and build contacts," she said.

Last year, Hilton talked to a research nurse who told her to keep her phone number as a future contact.

"I encouraged some of my friends to apply," she said.

Betebenner encourages student callers to build rapport on the phones.

"The most important thing is not whether we get a gift or not, but whether the person we called felt good about the call when they hang up," Betebenner said.

One of the biggest problems with organizing the Phonathon is the database is always deteriorating. Betebenner routinely has the phone list updated to keep good leads on file.

Although the Phonathon is one of the most expensive ways to raise money, Betebenner believes it is beneficial for both the students and the University and is well worthwhile.

"It costs about $10,000 to fund but it's worth it," he said. "I don't worry about the money for the students, that's not really an expense, it just cuts out the middle man."

DRUGS:

From Page 8A

force drug companies here to lower their prices," he said.

Lee said it is all a matter of putting pressure on the politicians.

"Something needs to change," Corcoran said.

Drugs that do not meat FDA standards are often shipped to Europe where standards are generally less rigid, he said. Those drugs can potentially make it into the United States.

Lee said much of the matter comes down to the right to sue.

"The biggest thing I can see is no one in the U.S. would ever dream of signing away their right to litigation," he said.

In a way, by bringing in Canadian drugs, one waves his right to sue, Lee said.

Canadian drug prices are drastically lower than those of American pharmaceutical products, because the government in Canada has eliminated the liability factor.

With the attention being drawn to this issue by five governors, Corcoran said this topic will be an issue in the upcoming election cycle.

"I think we're going to have this conversation for quite awhile," Lee said.

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Nice Shot!

Lions seek to improve on past seasons' records

By Jeremiah Cook
Staff Writer

When the Missouri Southern men's basketball takes the floor this season, it will be looking to extend its streak of consecutive 20-win seasons to five.

They will also be looking to make it back to NCAA Division II postseason play for the first time since 2000. The Lions begin the season ranked fifth in the preseason coach's poll, although they did receive one first place vote.

"That's why we play the games," said Robert Corn, head men's basketball coach. "There is always a surprise team in the positive and a surprise team in the negative."

The Lions return three starters from last year. Those returnees are senior guard Ameer Watts, junior guard Hiram Ocasio and senior forward Deon Rose.

Last season, Watts led the team in scoring with 14.3 points per game. He also led the MIAA in 3-point field goal percentage at 45 percent, and was second in the league in assists, with 5.7 per game.

"He had a great season for us last year," Corn said. "He's a very talented player and we have expected a lot out of him, and he has always delivered."

Ocasio finished third in the MIAA with 2.1 steals per game and averaged 8.1 points per game.

Senior forward Darrell Redmond, a regular player for the Lions in relief, also returns. He averaged 7.7 points per game last season.

As a team, the Lions averaged 78.1 points per game last season.

The Lions are also joined by newcomers Orestus Cavness, a junior forward, junior guard Jeremy Jones and freshman center Matt Habermehl.

"We have different players with different personalities," Corn Said. "We've got three new guys coming in, and all three of those guys bring a different dimension to this basketball team."

The Lions know if they are going to continue the success of recent years, hard work will play a big role.

"We are going to have a good season," said Carlos Collazo, sophomore forward. "We just have to keep practicing hard, do what the coaches tell us, and work hard. This year, we are working twice as hard as last year."

"We just have to continue to work and to take it game by game," Corn said. "Hopefully, over the course of the season, positive things will happen for us."

"We feel like we still have quite a bit of work to do," said MacKenzie Sherrel, senior guard.

As far as the teams ahead of the Lions in the preseason poll, they are anxious to see the teams play.

"As far as the other teams go, I haven't seen any of them play," Sherrel said. "But anybody can win on any night in this league."

"The other teams are good," Collazo said. "But we know that we have to keep working hard and prove how good we are on the court."

Last year the Lions defeated the Emporia State University Hornets in the Sonic/MIAA Championship Tournament before falling to the Washburn University Ichabods in their next game.

They won't face the teams again until conference play begins, but in that time the team will have 10 games to fine tune their play.

"We've got to continue to work and to get better defensively," Corn said.

"And to try to get better at rebounding as a team."

"When we play as a team, we will be fine," Collazo said.

"I think that we will get out and try to run the floor," Sherrel said. "And to be more aggressive that way."

The Lions went 8-2 last year in the months of November and December. They will face Colorado State University-Colorado Springs and Bemidji State University at the Pittsburg State Classic Nov. 28-29.

Center Darrell Redmond
Scored 10+ nine times and made 59.2 percent of his shots in the 2002-2003 season.

Guard Ameer Watts
Led the team in assists (166) and scoring (414) and was second in steals (45).

Forward Orestus Cavness
Transferred from Georgia Perimeter College. Cavness helped GPC to a fourth place NJCAA Division I finish.

Guard Hiram Ocasio
Averaged 10.7 points per game and led the team with 61 steals in the 2002-2003 season.

Forward Deon Rose
Averaged 8.1 points per game with 5.0 rebounds per game in his first season after transferring from Columbus (Ohio) State Community College.

LION STATS

Men's Basketball

Nov. 15 Results

RU (65)			
Player	fg-fga	ft-fta	tp
Day	4-7	1-2	10
Sobanski	4-13	2-3	10
Fongue	2-7	0-0	5
Dopson	3-11	2-3	12
McKee	5-10	2-4	12
Burns	2-5	0-0	8
Kristic	0-1	0-0	0
Glenn	4-8	0-0	8
Griffis	0-0	0-0	0
MSSU (70)			
Player	fg-fga	ft-fta	tp
Cavness	8-13	1-4	21
Rose	3-5	2-2	10
Redmond	2-3	0-0	5
Watts	3-10	1-4	15
Ocasio	1-9	0-3	6
Clair	2-3	0-0	6
Jones	1-5	0-2	2
Sherrel	0-2	0-1	0
Aponte	0-0	0-0	0
Engelken	1-7	1-6	3
Collazo	0-2	0-0	2
RU	**37**	**28**	**— 65**
MSSU	**30**	**40**	**— 70**

Football

Nov. 15 Results

MSSU	**7**	**0**	**13**	**15**	**— 35**
WU	**7**	**7**	**14**	**10**	**— 38**

First Quarter

MSSU — Willard 68 yd run (Komen kick), 12:39. WU — Hearn 2 yd run (Sabel kick), 6:15

Second Quarter

WU — Hearn 1 yd run (Sabel kick), 7:34

Third Quarter

WU — Hearn 1 yd run (Sabel kick), 11:43. MSSU — Mothershed 29 yd run (Komen kick), 6:50. WU — Odupitan 89 yd kickoff return (Sabel kick), 6:39. MSSU — Johnson 3 yd run (Komen kick failed), 3:49

Fourth Quarter

WU — Sabel 34 yd field goal, 14:55. MSSU — Turner 65 yd pass from Mothershed (Winfrey pass), 14:46. MSSU — Mothershed 2 yd run (Komen kick), 3:04. WU — Hearn 12 yd run (Sabel kick), 1:38

Southern Schedule

Nov. 21

Women's Basketball @ home against Henderson State University @ 7 p.m.

Nov. 22

Cross Country @ NCAA Division II National Championships in Raleigh, N.C.

Women's Basketball @ home against Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Nov. 25

Men's Basketball @ home against Quincy University @ 7 p.m.

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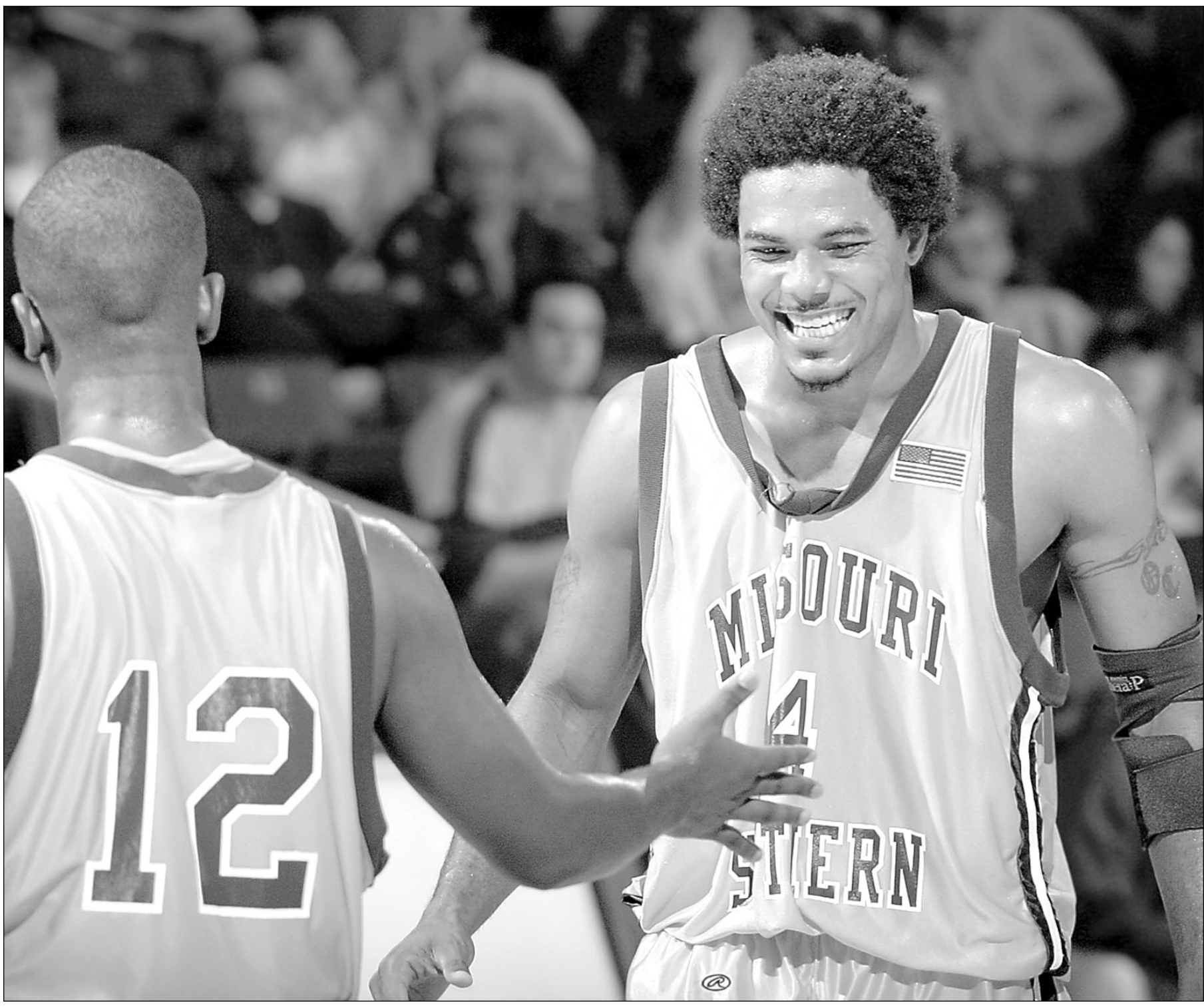


Andy Tevis/The Chart

Senior guard Ameer Watts, left, congratulates junior forward Orestus Cavness during the Nov. 15 game against Rockhurst University. The Lions won, 70-65.

Lions find it hard to prey on Hawks

BY TARA WALKER
Staff Writer

The Lions, being the predators that they are, snatched the Hawks and a win right out of the sky.

Although the Missouri Southern men's basketball team has played Rockhurst University for years, including back when both were District 16 teams, beating the Hawks never gets old.

Southern fought hard against RU on Nov. 15 during the first game of the season, and was successful with a game score of 70-65.

Head coach Robert Corn said the team struggled in the first 25 to 26 minutes of the game, never getting into a positive flow.

"We started off really slow, and they got ahead," said Ameer Watts, senior guard. "We were just going through the motions."

Corn said rebounding was inconsistent, but in the last 13 minutes of the game the team was able to get some things into transition.

He said the team was able to make some easy baskets, get some three-point opportunities and, as a result, finally get into a positive flow.

"In the last 10 minutes of the game, we played with a lot of intensity on the defensive end, and that is what gave us a victory," said Hiram Ocasio, junior guard.

"We were fortunate to win the basketball game," Corn said.

"I think anytime you start out the season, you have to feel very fortunate to win, especially when you are playing someone like Rockhurst."

> *"In the last 10 minutes of the game, we played with a lot of intensity on the defensive end, and that is what gave us a victory."*
>
> **Hiram Ocasio**
> *Junior Guard*

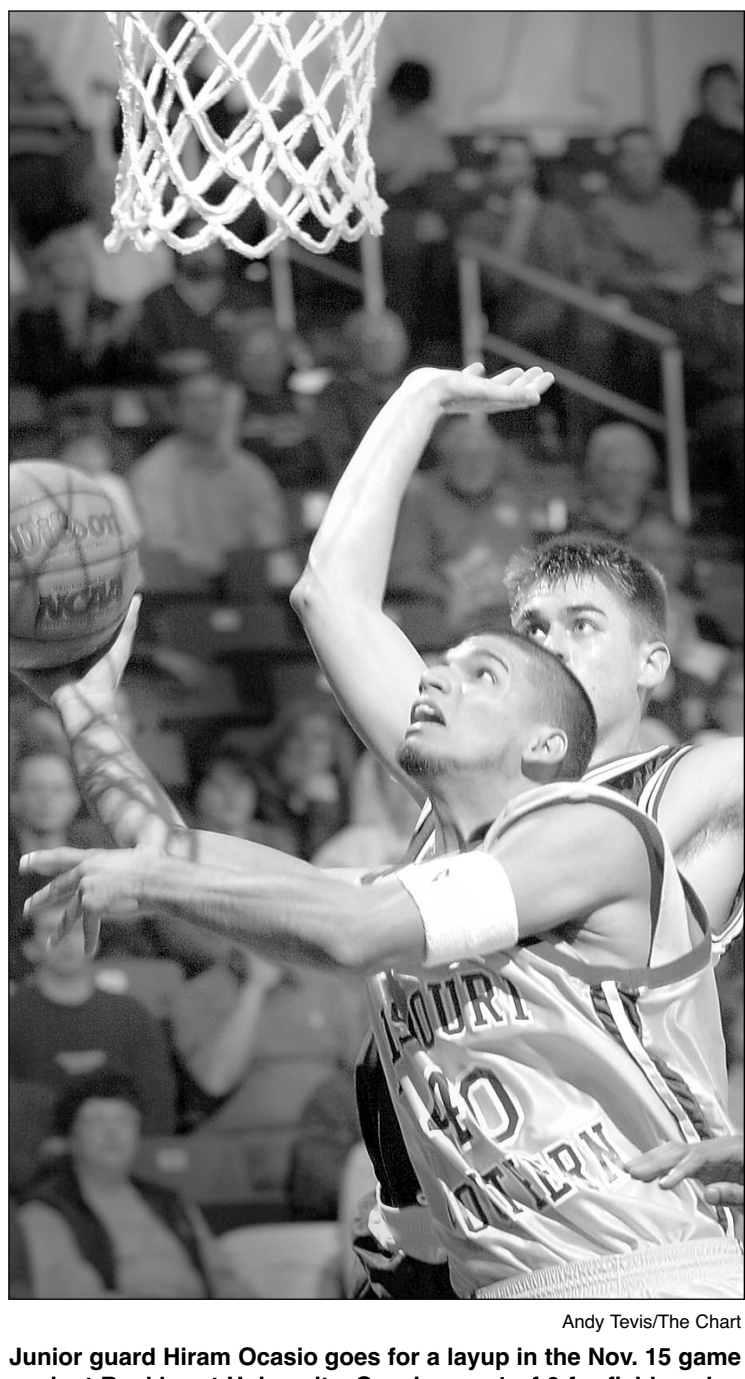
Corn said this was not a typical first game, because RU is a regional game. It was a game the team thought it had to win if it wants to do something this year.

"I thought our guys persevered quite a bit, and overcame the margin," Corn said. "It is easy to fold up and quit, but our guys kept playing and kept battling."

The team's next games are during the Pittsburg State Classic on Friday against Bemidji State University and Saturday against the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs. Corn said it is going to be two tough games.

"We don't know a whole lot about either team," Corn said.

"We realize it's going to be a tough challenge."



Andy Tevis/The Chart

Junior guard Hiram Ocasio goes for a layup in the Nov. 15 game against Rockhurst University. Ocasio was 1-of-9 for field goals.

Football team loses in hard-fought battle against Washburn

BY JEREMIAH COOK
Staff Writer

The Missouri Southern Lions football team went to Topeka on Nov. 15 looking to break a seven-game loosing streak in a game against the Washburn University Ichabods.

The Lions went into the locker room at halftime down 14-7. Southern would go on a 28-17 run in the second half, giving the Lions the 35-31 lead late in the fourth quarter.

With 1:26 left in the game, the Ichabods' Trent Hearn ran for a 12-yard touchdown, giving WU the 38-35 win and dropping the Lions to 1-10 on the season, and 1-8 in the MIAA. The Lions finished ninth in the conference.

The Lions racked up 418 yards of offense in the game, including 187 rushing yards.

"It seemed like our offense was clicking from the first play," said sophomore running back/wide receiver Darvin Willard.

"The offensive line was opening some big holes for me."

"It was good to have some momentum on offense," said offensive line coach Andy Schneider. "Going into last week we had given up the most sacks, but Northwest gave up eight on Saturday to Pitt. State, and we didn't give up any, so we moved up a spot, and that is a position that we were glad to give away."

Lions 35

Ichabods 38

The Lions' defense forced five Ichabods' turnovers, including an interception each by senior defensive back Ryan Burpo and by junior cornerback Robert Spinks.

On Nov. 17, the All-MIAA was released, and the Lions had five representatives.

Burpo, who finished his senior campaign with 118 tackles, including five for a loss, two interceptions, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery and six pass defenses, was elected to the second team of the All-MIAA.

The Lions also had four members of their squad receive honorable mentions. Sophomore offensive lineman Jason Stumbo, who helped man an offensive line that paved the way for 2,811 total offensive yards for the Lions this year.

Senior linebacker Seth Austin had 57 tackles, including two for a loss.

Junior cornerback Robert Spinks contributed 29 tackles and four interceptions, two of which he returned for touchdowns, to the Lions. Junior wide receiver DeMarcus Mathes received an honorable mention as a kick returner, with a 22.2-yard average and one return for a touchdown.

"I think that it's an honor to at least have some guys on there representing your team," Willard said. "I feel like there could have been others to make the team, but it's nice to have those guys honored."

"It's big," Mathes said. "It was one of my goals this season."

The success of the game against Washburn is one the Lions think will give them momentum to carry over into the next season.

"It allows the seniors to feel some success," Schneider said. "And it shows the underclassmen that if we put four quarters together, we can play with anybody."

Lions on the All-MIAA

Second Team

Defense:

Senior defensive back Ryan Burpo

Honorable Mention

Offense:

Sophomore offensive lineman Jason Stumbo

Junior cornerback Robert Spinks

Junior wide receiver Demarcus Mathes

Defense:

Senior linebacker Seth Austin

The Balanced Attack

Lions dominate Flyers to gain first win

BY MELISSA BLANCHARD
Staff Writer

With a successful exhibition game under its belt, the women's basketball team has a promising season ahead.

The team has several returning players and two freshmen players. Head coach Maryann Mitts has high hopes for the team.

"The first thing that the fans will see is a much improved returning class," Mitts said. "They spent most of the summer here with our strengthening and conditioning coaches."

The Lions played the Oklahoma Flyers Nov. 8 for an 89-63 win.

"I think the game went extremely well," said Vonny Wilson, junior forward. "Everybody just had a good time playing, and we had a good time playing with each other."

The Flyers had a brief lead of three points in the first quarter, but the Lions dominated the remainder of the game.

"That was a game, I felt, that showed the kind of offensive power we can have," Mitts said. "We took care of the ball very well."

The Lions have a tournament this weekend, the Pizza Hut/ Fairfield Inn Tip-off Classic at the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center. Their first game begins at 7 p.m. on Friday versus Henderson State University.

At 3 p.m. on Saturday, they play against Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

"The wins early in the year are very important in building confidence," Mitts said. "It takes a certain amount of time for the players not only to learn a system of play, but believe in it — and winning helps.

"We have a very competitive team, one of the most talented groups that we have ever had here. We have a team that will play both ends of the floor."

She said to make this season a success, some improvements need to be made.

While the team is working well together and its defense is exciting, Mitts said the team can always improve.

"Our rebounding has to be more successful," she said. "We are not a big team. While we make good shots, our bench needs to develop as a strength for us."

An important aspect of any team would be the level of balance it can achieve.

"I think our team is coming together nicely," Wilson said. "We're still getting to know each other."

Mitts said the Lions this season have a strong team with a "balanced attack." She said when defense and offense work together, there will be some exciting games for the fans to watch.

For more details on the Missouri Southern women's basketball program, one can go to the athletics Web site at www.mssu.edu/athletics/basketball-girls.htm.

Introducing The '03-'04 Women's Basketball Team

No.	Name	Pos.
3	Carol Koenig	G
13	Andrea Gossard	G
20	A'kilah Coston	G
21	Nicole Greninger	G
22	Katie Deen	G
23	Aubrie Hallman	G
24	Sharelle Stewart	G/F
31	Kasey Grosse	F
33	Vonny Wilson	G/F
34	Wyketha Harrell	F
40	Amy Adkison	F
43	Paige Christiansen	C

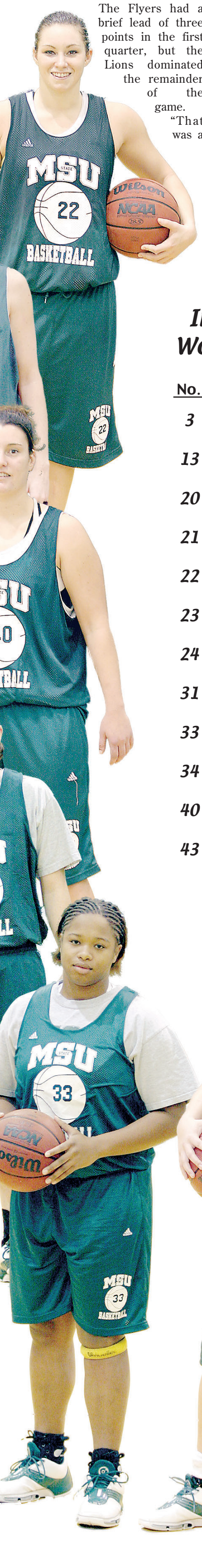


Photo Illustration
Andy Tevis/The Chart